



Lesson 9—Attitudes Towards the New Immigrants

Objectives - Students will:

- analyze diary entries from Nathaniel Booth, a Kingston immigrant,
- make assumptions as to what the attitudes of local Kingston residents were regarding immigrants.

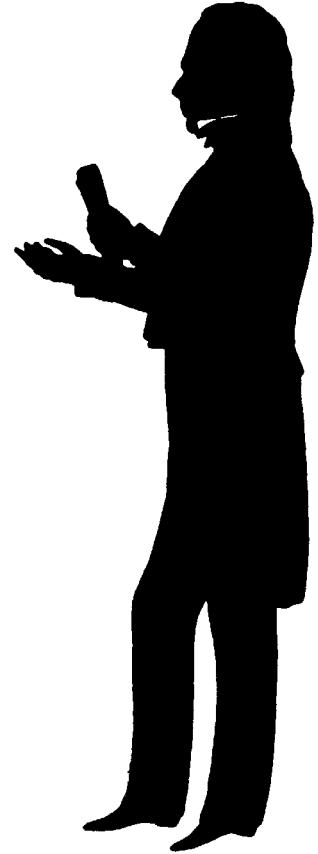
Materials

- Student Activity Sheet 9

Background information

Nathaniel Booth, an English born resident of Kingston, left behind two diaries that range from the years from 1844 to 1854.

"The diaries of Nathaniel Booth are an indispensable account of daily life in the mid-nineteenth century for an immigrant new to America. Booth emigrated from England to New York in the mid 1830's and kept a detailed daily journal of the struggles, achievements and failures facing him everyday. He gives accounts of numerous jobs, including work on the D & H Canal, cement mines and merchant stores along the Rondout creek. The journal follows Booth to his move out west in 1846, and then back again to New York in 1848 and continues through 1854, all the while chronicling his adventures while trying to become successful in America." - Lisa Bruck, *the Senate House*



Teaching Sequence

1. Reading a diary
 - a. Discuss how we can use primary sources, such as diaries, letters, etc. to understand people's attitudes in the past. Explain who Nathaniel Booth was and that his dairies are currently owned and housed at the Senate House Museum in Kingston.
 - b. Distribute the Activity Sheet with excerpts from Nathaniel Booth's Diary. Direct the students to use the excerpts on the top of the page to answer the questions on the activity sheet.
2. Class discussion
 - a. Ask students to think about what a stereotype is. Pose the following questions:
 - "How are stereotypes perpetuated?"
 - "What stereotypes do you think Booth holds about the Irish?"
 - "What stereotypes do you see in the news, on TV shows or in advertisements?"

Extension Activities

- The Book, *Open Minds to Equality: A Sourcebook of Learning Activities to Promote Race, Sex, Class, and Age Equity* by Nancy Schneidewind is filled with activities to help students become aware of bias and stereotypes. The teacher can choose any of the activities he/she chooses.



Activity Sheet 9

Nathaniel Booth's Diary

Consequence and accuses me of doing wrong in giving
the young man employment - To day a regular
Irish row came off in the Cooper's shop the cause of which
was some poor devil had the misfortune to be born in
Tipperary and the rest considered it sacred duty to half
murder him - A great clan fight came off in Rondout
on Sunday, among the Irish - eleven persons engaged were
lodge in jail yesterday -

Transcription

May 21, 1850

Today a regular Irish row came off in the cooper's shop the cause of which was some poor devil had the misfortune to be born in Tipperary (a town in Ireland) and the rest considered it sacred duty to half murder him - a great clan fight came off in Rondout on Sunday among the Irish - 11 persons engaged were lodged in jail yesterday.

Thus of consequence -
Started for New York by the Emerald, on board
were two noisy fools who kept the cabin in confu-
sion with their senseless racket after awhile
they quarrelled, then fought and I am happy to
say both got hurt - they were Irishmen - I had
almost added "of course" certain it is the Lawyers
get half the support from that nation -

Transcription

Saturday Dec. 15 1849

{Received a letter from Henrietta King - interesting of course - she always writes in the same spirit - no news of consequence} - started for New York by the Emerald - on board were two noisy fools who kept the cabin in confusion with their senseless racket - after a while they quarrelled then fought and I am happy to say both got hurt - they were Irishmen - I had almost added "of course" - certain it is the lawyers get half their support from that nation

1. Based on these two diary entries, what do you think Nathaniel's and some other Kingston resident's attitude was toward Irish immigrants? Use two examples from Nathaniel's diary to support your answer.
